Dr. Little Comments On Tobacco Role, Declares:

Statistics Don't Prove Cancer Link

By ED MATHESON

Dr. Clarence Cook Little told a Bangor Chamber of Commerce annual gathering Wednesday evening that "statistical information is not substantial proof" that smoking is a direct or contributing cause of cancer or other chronic or constitutional diseases.

Dr. Little, who is associated with the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, founded the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor and is a former managing director of the American Cancer Society.

Studied Cancer 50 Years

The 47th annual session also elected George Vose new Chamber president and Michael Seluke as new Bangor Merchants Bureau president.

Dr. Little said that he has studied the disease of cancer for 50 years, "and I can only take lightly the simple theory of its origin."

The doctor said that the tobacco industry has spent in the past five years $3,800,000 in research grants, not to clear the industry of the charges made against it but to find out if "tobacco is guilty of the charges."

Dr. Little said that the industry will be the first to report if tobacco is linked with cancer.

Blames "Lay Journals"

The speaker blamed the "lay journals" with spreading cancer fear by publishing articles not based on fact. He said that filter cigarettes were not produced in quantity by the industry because of the claim that filtered smoke reduces the chances of getting cancer, but because the public demanded filters after reading that non-filter cigarette smoking causes cancer.

The doctor said the industry will produce square, pink or any shaped cigarette if the public will buy them—it's a highly competitive market.

Dr. Little stated that he could only guess at the motives of the American Cancer Society when it announced five years ago that cancer was directly linked with smoking.

Need For Something New

One suggestion that Dr. Little offered was the "need for giving the public something new and exciting."

The doctor said that the statisticians of Great Britain and the United States are in complete disagreement although they use the same data.

"The British say that inhalation makes no difference while in America they say it is important."

The doctor concluded his talk by saying that "a highly intelligent public is a prerequisite to conquering these diseases which have a slow, silent and very subtle beginning."

Other Chamber officers are J. Dudley Utterback, vice president; George Prince, treasurer; and Norbert X. Dowd, executive secretary.

On the Board of Directors are George Vose, Andrew J. Pease, J. Dudley Utterback, Stanley Leen, Albert Schiro, James S. Stanley, Dr. Frederick W. Whittaker, J. Gordon Robertson, Alan Waterman, David Buchanan, Walter Dickson, E. Richard Drummond, Donald Eames, C. J. Fox, Ambrose Higgins, Charles McInnich, John McPike, John Maines, William Richardson, James Segal, Michael Seluke, Frank Smart, Caldwell Sweet, William Viner and Willis Weeks.

Other Bangor Merchants Bureau officers are Sidney Schiro, vice president; Irving Broder, treasurer; and Norbert X. Dowd, secretary.

On the Merchants Governing Board are James Allison, Edward Beausang, Charles Brountas, Weldon Dunnett, John Freese, Mel Goldstein, Scott Hathaway, Russell Lathrop, Donald MacNaughton, Henry Paul, Samuel Rudman, and James Segal.

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Smoking--Cancer Issue Debated by Scientists

The controversial question of whether cigarette smoking causes lung cancer was debated by two leading scientists at the annual meeting of the Monroe County Cancer Assn. yesterday.

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, chief of the biometry (health statistics) branch of the National Cancer Institute, said:

"It's no longer an opinion that lung cancers are caused by cigarette smoking. It's a fact."

Clarence Cook Little, D.Sc., scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, said:

"The continued selection and presentation of only the evidence that supports the tobacco-guilt theory is neither scientific nor honest. Let the public have all the facts in an impersonal and unemotional presentation."

At the luncheon meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Shimkin said that 18,000 of the 26,000 annual deaths from lung cancer in this country could be prevented by the elimination of cigarette smoking. While opposed to an outright prohibition of cigarette smoking, he said the tobacco industry and its advertising hucksters refuse to accept the facts that cigarettes can induce lung cancer in some people. The industry, he said, needs self-discipline.

Dr. Little, who founded the Jackson Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Me., said there are inconsistencies between the actual research findings and the interpretation of the statistical result. He charged that some scientists may be too enthusiastic in their interpretations. He said more research is needed before a conclusion can be drawn.

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No Jury Can Settle Cancer, Smoking Link

The link between smoking and cancer — if there is one — will never be settled by a jury of 12 men in court, Dr. Clarence Cook Little, said here Wednesday.

A recent civil action against the Tobacco Industry charging it with selling products which caused cancer was decided in favor of the industry.

"The subject of cancer is too technical for any 12 laymen," the doctor said.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/ppbm0000